

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 NIC-01

/152 W

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R 080724Z APR 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5686

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5087

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB CH VN

SUBJECT: GKR PRESS CLAIMS THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN IS DEAN

1. IN WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE FIRST GKR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE KHIEU KAMPHAN TRIP, THE OFFICIAL PRESS ORGAN AGENCY KHMER PRESSE (AKP) HAS PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "TO REPLACE A PHANTOM, PEKING AND HANOI ARE USING A DOUBLE". THE ARTICLE NEVER MENTIONS KHIEU SAMPHAN BY NAME, BUT REFERS SARCASTICALLY TO A "REVOLUTIONARY CHIEF" WHO AVOIDS CONTACT WITH THE PRESS, WILL NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED, WHOSE VOICE CANNOT BE RECOGNIZED, ETC. AKP GOES ON TO SAY THAT CHOU-EN-LAI HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS "MISE EN SCENE" BY "RECEIVING HIMSELF A PERSONAGE ABOUT WHOM EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT HE IS ONLY THE DOUBLE OF A MAN WHO CEASED TO LIVE IN 1967".

2. COMMENT: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, MANY KHMER EXPRESS
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DOUBTS ABOUT KHIEU SAMPHAN'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE, BUT FEW

WILL STATE THEM AS DEFINITELY AS THE AKP ARTICLE. THE
EXISTENCE OF A KHIEU SAMPHAN "DOUBLE" IS OF COURSE A MATTER
OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TO THE GRUNK/FUNK MEDIA, WHICH
DOES ITS BEST TO KNOCK DOWN SUCH SPECULATION, AND "KHIEU
SAMPHAN" HIMSELF HAS REBUTTED THESE "SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS"
ON HIS CURRENT TRIP.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM05087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740079-0508
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740458/aaaacbfel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GKR PRESS CLAIMS THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN IS DEAN
TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, VN, (KHIEU SAMPHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005